

# **APPARATUS AND METHOD TO COORDINATE MULTIPLE DATA STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL SYSTEMS**

## **Abstract**

A method to coordinate interconnected information storage and retrieval systems,  
5 where each of the information and storage systems is capable of communicating with one  
or more host computers. The method provides a plurality of controllers and one or more  
information storage and retrieval systems, where each of the plurality of controllers is  
disposed in one of the one or more information storage and retrieval systems. The  
method designates one of the plurality of controllers as a master controller and the  
10 remaining controllers as target controllers. The method then generates one or more  
master controller commands by the master controller, and provides those one or more  
master controller commands to each of said target controllers, where the one or more  
master controller commands cause said target controllers to adjust the flow of data into  
and out of the one or more information storage and retrieval systems.